

CLAIMS

1. Process for the production of alkoxylated alkyl and/or alkenyl polyglycosides by reaction of alkylene oxides with alkyl and alkenyl polyglycosides corresponding to formula (I):

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in which R^1 is an alkyl and/or alkenyl group containing 4 to 22 carbon atoms, G is a sugar unit containing 5 or 6 carbon atoms and p is a number 10 of 1 to 10, characterized in that the alkyl and/or alkenyl polyglycosides corresponding to formula (I) are used in the form of water-containing preparations with water contents of more than 5% by weight, based on the water-containing preparation.

2. Process as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the alkyl and/or 15 alkenyl polyglycosides corresponding to formula (I) are used in the form of water-containing preparations with water contents of 10 to 80% by weight and preferably 30 to 60% by weight, based on the water-containing preparation.

3. Process as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that alkyl and/or 20 alkenyl polyglycosides corresponding to formula (I), in which R^1 is an alkyl group containing 12 to 14 carbon atoms, are used.

4. Process as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that alkyl and/or alkenyl polyglycosides corresponding to formula (I), in which p is a number of 1.1 to 3, are used.

25 5. Process as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that alkyl and/or alkenyl polyglycosides corresponding to formula (I), in which G is a glucose unit, are used.

6. Process as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the reaction is carried out at temperatures in the range from 80 to 150°C and preferably at 30 temperatures in the range from 100 to 120°C.

7. Process as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the reaction is carried out in the presence of 0.1 to 5.0% by weight and preferably 0.2 to 0.6% by weight, based on the reaction product obtained, of a basic catalyst.
- 5 8. Process as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that 0.5 to 100 mol, preferably 0.5 to 20 mol and more particularly 1 to 15 mol alkylene oxide is used per mol alkyl and/or alkenyl polyglycoside.
9. Process as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that ethylene oxide is used as the alkylene oxide.
- 10 10. Use of alkoxylated alkyl and/or alkenyl polyglycosides as adjuvants in agrochemical formulations, more particularly as potentiating agents for herbicides.
11. Use of alkoxylated alkyl and/or alkenyl polyglycosides as emulsifiers or surfactants in laundry detergents, dishwashing detergents and/or cleaning preparations.
- 15 12. Use of alkoxylated alkyl and/or alkenyl polyglycosides as emulsifiers or surfactants in cosmetic and/or pharmaceutical formulations.
13. Use of alkoxylated alkyl and/or alkenyl polyglycosides produced by the process claimed in claims 1 to 9 as emulsifiers or surfactants in laundry detergents, dishwashing detergents and/or cleaning preparations.
- 20 14. Use of alkoxylated alkyl and/or alkenyl polyglycosides produced by the process claimed in claims 1 to 9 as emulsifiers or surfactants in cosmetic and/or pharmaceutical formulations.